

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 PA-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 H-02
DODE-00 PM-05 /037 W
-----045485 151538Z /66
O R 151436Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
TO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2619

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 5631

FOR JAMES THURBER (PGM/GF)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY) WB, GW, US
SUBU: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT- PRESIDENTS SPEECH AT WIESBADEN AIR BASE

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT
BRIGADE 76, WIESBADEN AIR BASE, FRG, JULY 15, 1978:

1. I AM PROUD AND HAPPY TO BE WITH YOUR TODAY. TO ALL OF
YOU, I BRING THE GREETINGS AND THE GRATITUDE OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE.

2. I CANNOT THINK OF A NOBLER OR MORE IMPORTANT PURPOSE
THAN THE ONE YOU SERVE HERE. YOU ARE HERE IN DEFENSE OF
THE INTEGRITY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. YOU ARE HERE IN
DEFENSE OF THE MOST VITAL INTERESTS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES
OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. ABOVE ALL, AMERICANS AND
GERMANS ALIKE, YOU ARE HERE IN DEFENSE OF FREEDOM. MORE
THAN ECONOMICS---MORE EVEN THAN THE COMMON THREAT POSED
BY OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES--IT IS OUR COMMITMENT TO
FREEDOM THAT UNITES US. WE DO NOT ALWAYS LIVE UP PERFECTLY
TO ITS CONCEPTS. BUT IT IS A CONCRETE REALITY THAT
BRINGS MEANING TO OUR LIVES, AND WE WILL DEFEND OUR
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FREEDOM HOWEVER WE MUST.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE KIND
OF LASTING PEACE THAT ALL PEOPLE WANT. FOR 30 YEARS,
THE MISSION OF NATO HAS BEEN TO PREVENT WAR BY BEING
READY TO FIGHT. THAT IS YOUR MISSION TODAY. HUNDREDS
OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE DEPENDING ON YOUR COMBAT

READINESS AND CAPABILITY.

4. THOSE OF YOU WHO SERVE IN BRIGADE 76 REPRESENT THE MORE THAN 300,000 MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY, IN SUPPORT OF THE NATO ALLIANCE, AND AS THE NEWEST CONTINGENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS ON THIS CONTINENT, YOU PARTICULARLY SYMBOLIZE YOUR COUNTRY'S INCREASED COMMITMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF THE ALLIANCE.

5. THOSE OF YOU WHO SERVE IN THE ARMORED BRIGADE--- PANZERBRIGADE 14--- REPRESENT THE ARMED FORCES OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, WHICH SUPPLY MORE THAN HALF THE NATO GROUND FORCES AVAILABLE IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

6. AND TOGETHER, YOUR TWO UNITS REPRESENT THE CLOSE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION THAT IS CRUCIAL TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE AND THEREFORE TO THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRIES. YOUR OFFICERS CALL IT "INTEROPERABILITY". AND AFTER SEEING A DEMONSTRATION OF IT A FEW MINUTES AGO, I CALL IT IMPRESSIVE.

7. YOU ARE THE POINT OF THE WESTERN SWORD. THAT SWORD IS SHARP AND TRUE, AND THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES ARE STRIVING TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.

8. THAT IS WHY WE ARE INTRODUCING IMPROVED EQUIPMENT
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INTO THE EUROPEAN THEATER--EQUIPMENT LIKE THE F-15 AND A-10 AIRCRAFT AND THE COBRA HELICOPTER GUNSHIP EQUIPED WITH TWO ANTI-TANK MISSILES.

9. THAT IS WHY WE HAVE INCREASED AND REPOSITIONED OUR FORCES HERE.

10. THAT IS WHY, WITH OUT ALLIES, WE WILL MEET THE FUTURE NEEDS OF NATO THROUGH THE LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM.

11. AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE IMPROVING OUR ABILITY TO PROVIDE REINFORCEMENTS, SHOULD THAT BECOME NECESSARY, THROUGH SUCH STEPS AS INCREASED STOCKPILING OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT HERE IN EUROPE.

12. THIS MEANS THAT WHEN ADDITIONAL TROOPS GET HERE IN AN EMERGENCY, THEIR EQUIPMENT IS ALREADY STOCKPILED AND WAITING FOR THEM. THIS GIVES US MORE FLEXIBILITY AND A FASTER REACTION TIME.

13. MILITARY SERVICE HAS ALWAYS INVOLVED SACRIFICE, EVEN

IN TIMES OF PEACE, AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT SERVICE IS FAR FROM HOME. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS DIRECTLY TO THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO ARE HERE TODAY.

14. I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING TOUGH FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF YOU IN THE JUNIOR GRADES WHO HAVE YOUR FAMILIES WITH YOU.

15. I CANNOT PROMISE YOU INSTANT AND COMPLETE RELIEF. BUT I DO WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT I AM ACUTELY AWARE OF YOUR PROBLEMS.

16. THOSE PROBLEMS ARE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE VALUE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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DOLLAR AND THE OVERALL HEALTH OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND I HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES, AND WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THEM IN DEPTH AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING TOMORROW AND MONDAY.

17. BUT WE CANNOT RELY ON LONG-TERM CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY TO DO THE JOB OF MEETING YOUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS.

18. YOU HAVE NOTICED SOME PROGRESS IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS -- PARTICULARLY THE INCREASE IN ALLOWANCES FOR JUNIOR ENLISTED MEMBERS WHOSE FAMILIES JOIN YOU HERE IN GERMANY.

19. THERE HAVE BEEN, AND WILL BE, OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AS WELL. IN NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET, I HAVE PROPOSED TO THE CONGRESS LARGE INCREASES IN A VARIETY OF SERVICES RANGING FROM FINANCIAL COUNSELING TO DENTAL CARE. AND I AM ASKING CONGRESS TO LET THE GOVERNMENT SHOULDER THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS THAT JUNIOR MEMBERS NOW FACE WHEN YOUR FAMILIES JOIN YOU HERE.

20. PROBLEMS ASIDE, YOUR SERVICE HERE BRINGS YOU SOME RARE OPPORTUNITIES. GERMANY IS A BEAUTIFUL AND HOSPITABLE LAND, AND THIS PART OF THE RHINE VALLEY HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF ITS MOST BEAUTIFUL SPOTS. PEOPLE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD JUST TO SPEND A FEW DAYS HERE.

21. I HOPE THAT ALL OF YOU WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW GERMANY AND EUROPE IN DEPTH. YOU ARE HERE AS MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE MAKING AN INDISPENSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECURITY OF THE LIFE AROUND YOU. I HOPE YOU WILL BECOME PART OF THAT LIFE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. I HOPE YOU WILL MAKE GERMAN FRIENDS -- BOTH AMONG THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AND THE AMONG YOUR COMRADES IN ARMS. BEGIN TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE.
IT WILL GIVE YOU A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON OUR OWN COUNTRY AND OUR
WAY OF LIFE AS WELL.

22. AS PRESIDENT AS COMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF U.S. MILITARY FORCES,
I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE WORK YOU ARE DOING HERE. THAT GOES
FOR ALL OF YOU, GERMANS AS WELL AS AMERICANS, AND FOR YOUR
FAMILIES TOO. I AM GLAD TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO VISIT WITH YOU.
AND I AM PROUD OF YOUR PARTRIOTISM AND YOUR COURAGE.PUGH.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978FRANKF05631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780291-0009
Format: TEL
From: FRANKFURT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780757/aaaabvrq.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cfd50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1998049
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT- PRESIDENTS SPEECH AT WIESBADEN AIR BASE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT BRIGADE 76, WIESBADEN AIR BASE, F RG, JULY 15, 1978
TAGS: OVIP, WB, GE, US, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: USICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cfd50773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014